



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

For Immediate Release – March 15, 2022

Mayor Sciarra Announces Northampton Received LEED for Cities Gold Certification

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra announced that the U.S. Green Building Council has certified the City of Northampton as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Cities at the Gold level. Previously, the city had simply been certified LEED for Cities.

"I am incredibly proud that Northampton has received a Gold certification - the second-highest a community can receive," said Mayor Sciarra. "While we are clearly a national leader, far ahead of the vast majority of communities, one of the most important goals for my time as Mayor is to help guide Northampton all the way to being carbon neutral according to our sustainability goals, and to earn a LEED Platinum certification."

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Cities is the certification of how well cities and communities are working to be energy and environmentally friendly. The city received the maximum score possible in the category "Natural Systems and Ecology" for its robust open space, recreation, and multi-use trail program, and for the variety of walkable open spaces available to residents. The city also scored well in transportation and land use. These credits recognize the importance of integrated planning through mixed-use development, efficient transportation, better connectivity, and engagement with stakeholders. Northampton will work towards earning full credit in the category "Materials and Resources," by building the necessary innovative strategies to move the city toward net-zero waste community status.

The LEED for Cities program is the most common measure of a community's energy and environmental sustainability. The city received the highest ranking available under the former STAR program, which has since been rolled into LEED. However, the STAR program included other measures of sustainability, such as affordable housing.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.